

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00665 181359Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06
CCO-00 CU-04 /088 W
-----043050 182329Z /41

R 181134Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6491
AMEMBASY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0665

E.O. 11652: NXGDS-4
TAGS: PINT SHUM IR
SUBJ: MORE REACTION TO QOM DEMONSTRATIONS

REF: TEHRAN 0548 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: FURTHER REPORTS INDICATE RIOTING SAT, JAN 14 IN SYMPATHY WITH THOSE KILLED AT QOM JAN 9 WAS WIDESPREAD IN TEHRAN, TABRIZ, ISFAHAN AND ELSEWHERE. LARGE PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION OCCURRED IN TABRIZ. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO EXPLICIT ANTI-AMERICANISM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO INCIDENTS MENTIONED REFTTEL, SAT, JAN 14 SAW WIDESPREAD VIOLENT RIOTS AT THE UNIV OF AZERBADIGN (TABRIZ) AND MARMAK COLLEGE, ARYAMEHR TECHNICAL COLLEGE, AND TEHRAN UNIV (ALL IN TEHRAN). PATTERN WAS SAME IN ALL CASES--STUDENTS BROKE INTO UNIV BUILDINGS WITH INTENT TO DO SEVERE DAMAGE AND WERE REPULSED BY POLICE, WITH SOME ARRESTS MADE IN EACH CASE.

3. AT TEHRAN, POLICE WERE PRESENT FROM BEGINNING, AND FACULTY SOURCE WHO OBSERVED RIOT SAID IT WAS CLASSIC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00665 181359Z

CONFRONTATION--STUDENTS CLEARLY BENTON VIOLENCE, POLICE RESISTING AND BREAKING UP DEMONSTRATION. ANOTHER ACADEMIC SOURCE INDICATED DEMONSTRATIONS AT TEHRAN WERE WIDESPREAD AND INCLUDED VIRTUALLY ALL FACULTIES, INCLUDING ARTS AND LETTERS WHICH IS NOT USUALLY SUBJECT TO RIOTING. THIS SOURCE THOUGHT POLICE BEHAVIOR WAS PROFESSIONAL, AND STUDENTS WERE BENT ON DESTRUCTION FROM START.

4. POLICE WERE ALSO READY AT ARYAMEHR WHERE TEHRAN UNIV SCENARIO REPEATED ITSELF. STUDENTS INFLICTED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE AND WERE DISPERSED BY POLICE WITH SOME ARRESTS.

5. AT NARMAK, ABOUT 600 STUDENTS BEGAN DEMONSTRATIONS WITH NO OUTSIDE POLICE INITIALLY PRESENT. LOCAL CAMPUS GUARDS WERE UNABLE TO CONTROL MOB, WHICH BROKE INTO CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE (HE WAS OUT OF COUNTRY) AND VIRTUALLY DESTROYED ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. SENIOR UNIV OFFICIAL INDICATED OVER 70 PERCENT F WINDOWS ON CAMPUS WERE BROKEN, AND THERE WERE SEVERAL STUDENTS INJURED IN SCUFFLING BEFORE POLICE ARRIVED AND BROKE UP FESTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, GOI WILL BE TRYING ALL ARRESTED STUDENTS IN CIVIL COURTS AND DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY AND OTHER CHARGES SUCH AS COMMITTING BODILY INJURY, IF APPLICABLE.

6. CONSULATE ISFAHAN NOTES BAZAAR REMAINED CLOSED THROUGH JAN 17, BUT OTHER SHOPS BEGAN REOPENING DURING JAN 17.

7. ONLY COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION WE AWARE OF RELATED TO THESE EVENTS WAS "SPONTANEOUS" OUTPOURING OF SEVERAL THOUSAND PEOPLE IN TABRIZ TO PROTEST RIOTS AGAINST GOVT. MEETING FOLLOWED RIOT AT AZARBADIGAN UNIV ON JAN 14 WHICH DID SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO UNIV BUILDINGS. PRESS JAN 18 SAID 50,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED PRO-GOVT DEMONSTRATION, WHICH FEATURED SPEAKERS ATTACKING EFFORTS TO PREY ON ENEMIES OF IRAN. MESSAGE DELIVERED TO MEETING BY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 00665 181359Z

TABRIZ RELIGIOUS LEADER'S REP BLASTED "INTERNATIONAL CHAIN OF AGITATORS WHO ARE IN THE SERVICE OF COLONIAL INTERESTS", WHO WILL "DO ANYTHING, ESPECIALLY BY DONNING THE CLOAK OF RELIGION, TO ACHIEVE THEIR UNHOLY ENDS". CONSULATE TABRIZ SAYS GOI CLEARLY ORGANIZED EVENT, TO POINT OF PROVIDING UNIFORM PLACARDS AND PICTURES OF SHAH.

8. THUS FAR, WE UNAWARE OF ANY SPECIFICALLY ANTI-AMERICAN INCIDENTS RELATED TO QOM EVENTS AND RELATED MANIFESTATIONS. SULLIVAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN00665
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780027-0993
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780148/aaaabofh.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cdf43be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TEHRAN 548
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3751497
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE REACTION TO QOM DEMONSTRATIONS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, IR
To: STATE LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cdf43be2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014